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ABRIDGMENT

OF

CHRISTIAN

DOCTRINE.

Revised and Enlarged

By R. C.



AT S. OMER:

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M. DCC. LXXII.



CHAP. I.



Q. *WHO made you?*

A. *God.*

Q. *Why did he make you?*

A. That I might know him, love him, and serve him in this World, and be happy with him for ever in the next.

Q. *To whose Likeness did he make you?*

A. To his own Image and Likeness.

Q. *Is this Likeness in your Body, or in your Soul?*

A. In the Soul.

Q. *In what is your Soul like to God?*

A. Because my Soul is a Spirit endowed with Understanding and Free Will; and is immortal, that is to say, it can never die.

Q. *In what else?*

A. That as in God there are three Persons and one God; so in Man there is one Soul and three Powers.

Q. *Which are the three Powers?*

A. Will, Memory, and Understanding.

Q. *Which must we take most Care of; our Body, or our Soul?*

A. Of our Soul.

Q. *Why so?*

A. What will it avail a Man to gain the whole World, and lose his own Soul? Mat. xvi. v. 26.

Q. *What must we do to save our Soul?*

A. We must worship God, by Faith, Hope, and Charity; That is, we must believe in him, hope in him, and love him with all our Hearts.

Q. *What is Faith?*

A. It is to believe, without doubting, all that God teaches, because he is the very Truth, and cannot deceive, nor be deceived.

Q. *And how shall we know what the Things are which God teaches us?*

A. From the Testimony of the Catholic Church on God, which he has established by innumerable Miracles, and illustrated by the Lives and Deaths of innumerable Saints.

C H A P. I I.

The APOSTLES CREED.

Q. WHAT are the chief Things which God teaches?
A. They are contained in the Apostles Creed.

Q. Say the Apostles Creed?

A. I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Creator of Heaven and Earth: And in Jesus Christ, his only Son our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Ghost; born of the Virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead and buried; he descended into Hell, the third Day he rose again from the Dead; he ascended into Heaven, sits at the Right-hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence he shall come to judge the Living and the Dead: I believe in the Holy Ghost; the Holy Catholic Church; the Communion of Saints; the Forgiveness of Sins; the Resurrection of the Body; and Life everlasting. Amen.

The FIRST ARTICLE of the CREED.

Q. Which is the first Article of the Apostles Creed?

A. I believe in God, the Father Almighty, Creator of Heaven and Earth.

Q. What is God?

A. He is the Maker and Lord of Heaven and Earth.

Q. Why is he called Almighty?

A. Because he can do all Things, whatever he pleases, and nothing is hard or impossible to him.

Q. Why is he called Creator of Heaven and Earth?

A. Because he made Heaven and Earth, and all Things out of Nothing, by his only Word.

Q. Had God any Beginning?

A. No; he always was and always will be.

Q. Where his God?

A. God is every where.

Q. Does God know and see all Things?

A. Yes; he does know and see all Things.

Q. Has God any Body?

A. No; God has no Body, he is a pure Spirit.

Q. Is there but one God?

A. No; there is but one God.

Q. Are there more Persons than one in God?

A. Yes, in God there are three Persons.

Q. Which are they?

A. God the Father, God the Son, and God the Holy Ghost.

Q. Are they not three Gods?

A. No; the Father, the Son, and the Holy Ghost, are all but one and the same God.

The SECOND ARTICLE.

Q. Which is the Second Article of the Creed?

A. And in Jesus Christ his only Son, our Lord.

Q. What do you believe of Jesus Christ?

A. I believe he is the Son of God, the second Person of the Blessed Trinity, true God, and true Man.

Q. Why is he true God?

A. Because he is the true and only Son of God the Father, born of him before all Ages, and perfectly equal to him.

Q. Why is he true Man?

A. Because he is the true Son of the Blessed Virgin Mary, and has a Body and Soul like us.

Q. Was he always both God and Man?

A. He was always God, equal to his Father from all Eternity: But he was not always Man; but only from the Time that he came down from Heaven for our Redemption.

Q. Why was he made Man?

A. To save us from Sin and Hell.

Q. Was Jesus Christ the Father, or the Holy Ghost?

A. No; he was neither God the Father, nor God the Holy Ghost, but only God the Son.

The THIRD ARTICLE.

Q. Which is the third Article of the Creed?

A. Who was conceived by the Holy Ghost, born of the Virgin Mary.

Q. How was Christ made Man?

A. He was conceived and made Man, by the Power of the Holy Ghost, in the Womb of the Virgin Mary, without having any Man for his Father.

Q. Where was our Saviour born?

A. In a Stable at Bethlehem.

Q. Upon what Day was our Saviour born?

A. Upon Christmas-Day.

The FOURTH ARTICLE.

Q. Which is the Fourth Article of the Creed?

A. Suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, dead, and buried.

Q. What did Christ suffer?

A. A bloody Sweat, whipping at the Pillar, crowning with Thorns, and the Carriage of his Cross.

Q. What else?

A. He was nailed to a Cross, and died upon it between two Thieves.

Q. Why did he suffer?

A. For our Sins.

Q. Upon what Day did he suffer?

A. On Good Friday.

Q. Where did he suffer?

A. On Mount Calvary.

Q. Why do Catholics make the Sign of the Cross?

A. To put us in mind of the blessed Trinity, and that the second Person became Man, and died on a Cross.

Q. What puts us in Mind of the Blessed Trinity, when we make the Sign of the Cross?

A. These Words: In the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost.

Q. What puts us in Mind that Christ became Man and suffered on a Cross?

A. The very making or signing ourselves with the Sign of the Cross.

The FIFTH ARTICLE.

Q. Which is the Fifth Article of the Creed?

A. He descended into Hell, the third Day he rose again from the Dead.

Q. Whither did the Soul of our Saviour go after his Death?

A. His Soul went down into that Part of Hell called Limbo.

Q. What do you mean by Limbo?

A. I mean a Place of Rest, where the Souls of the Saints were.

Q. Did none go up to Heaven before our Saviour?

A. No; they expected him to carry them up thither.

Q. What means, the third Day he rose again from the Dead?

A. It means, that after he was dead and buried, for Part of three Days, he raised himself to Life again the third Day.

Q. On what Day did Christ rise again from the Dead?

A. On Easter-Day.

The SIXTH ARTICLE.

Q. Which is the Sixth Article of the Creed?

A. He ascended into Heaven, sits on the Right-hand of God the Father Almighty.

Q. when did our Saviour go up to Heaven?

A. Forty Days after he rose again.

Q. why is he said to sit at the Right-hand of God the Father? Has God the Father any Hands?

A. No; but the Meaning of the Words is, that Christ as God is equal to his Father, and as Man is in the highest Place of Heaven.

Q. On what Day did our Saviour go up to Heaven?

A. On Ascension Day.

The SEVENTH ARTICLE.

Q. which is the Seventh Article of the Creed?

A. From thence he shall come to judge the Living and the Dead,

Q. will Christ ever come again?

A. Yes; he will come down from Heaven at the last Day, to judge all Men.

Q. What are the Things he will judge?

A. All our Thoughts, Words, and Works.

Q. What will he say to the Wicked?

A. Go ye cursed into everlasting Fire.

Q. What will he say to the Just?

A. Come, you blessed of my Father, receive ye the Kingdom which is prepared for you.

Q. Shall not every Man be judged at his Death, as well as at the last Day?

A. Yes: he shall.

The EIGHTH ARTICLE.

Q. Which is the Eighth Article of the Creed?

A. I believe in the Holy Ghost.

Q. Who is the Holy Ghost?

A. He is the third Person of the Blessed Trinity:

Q. From whom doth he proceed?

A. From the Father and the Son.

Q. Is he equal to them?

A. Yes; he is the same Lord and God as they are:

Q. When did the Holy Ghost come down on the Apostles in fiery Tongues.

A. On Whit-Sunday.

Q. Why did he come upon them?

A. To enable them to preach the Gospel and to plant the Church.

The NINTH ARTICLE.

Q. Which is the Ninth Article of the Creed?

A. The Holy Catholic Church, the Communion of Saints.

Q. What is the Catholic Church?

A. All the Faithful under one Head.

Q. Who is that Head?

A. Christ Jesus our Lord.

Q. Has the Church any visible Head on Earth?

A. Yes; the Bishop of *Rome*, who is the Successor of *St. Peter*, and commonly called the *Pope*.

Q. Has the Church of Christ any Marks by which you may know it?

A. Yes; it has these four Marks; it is One; it is Holy; it is Catholic, and Apostolical.

Q. How is the Church one?

A. Because all its Members agree in one Faith, are all in one Communion, and are all under one Head.

Q. How is the Church Holy?

A. By teaching a holy Doctrine, by inviting all to a holy Life, and by the eminent Holiness of so many Thousands of her Children.

Q. How is the Church Catholic or Universal?

A. Because she subsists in all Ages; teaches all Nations: and maintains all Truths.

Q. How is the Church Apostolical?

A. Because she comes down by a perpetual Succession from the Apostles of Christ; and has her Doctrine, her Orders, and her Mission from them.

Q. Can the Church err in what she teaches?

A. No; she cannot err in Matters of Faith.

Q. Why so?

A. Because Christ has promised, that *Hell's Gates* shall not prevail against his Church; and that the Holy Ghost shall teach her all Truth; and that he himself will abide with her for ever.

The COMMUNION of SAINTS.

Q. What is meant by the Communion of Saints?

A. That in the Church of God there is a Communion of all holy Persons in all holy Things.

Q. And have we any Communion with the Saints in Heaven?

A. Yes; we communicate with them, as our Fellow-members under the same Head Christ Jesus; and we are helped by their Prayers.

Q. And are the Souls in Purgatory helped by our Prayers?

A. Yes, they are.

Q. What

Q. What do you mean by Purgatory?

A. A middle State of Souls, suffering for a Time, on Account of their Sins.

Q. In what Cases do Souls go to Purgatory?

A. When they die in lesser Sins, which we call venial; or when they have not satisfied the Justice of God for former Transgressions.

Q. How do you prove there is a Purgatory?

A. Because the Scripture often teaches, that God will render to every Man according to his Works; and that Nothing defiled can enter Heaven; and that some Christians shall be saved, yet so as by Fire. 1. Cor. iii.

The TENTH ARTICLE.

Q. Which is the Tenth Article of the Creed?

A. The Forgiveness of Sins.

Q. What is meant by this Article?

A. That there is in the Church of God, a Forgiveness of Sins, for such as properly apply for it.

Q. To whom has Christ given Power to forgive Sins?

A. To the Apostles and their Successors, the Bishops and Priests of the Church.

Q. By what Sacraments are Sins forgiven?

A. By Baptism and Penance.

Q. What is Sin?

A. An Offence of God: or any Thought, Word, or Deed, against the Law of God.

Q. What is Original Sin?

A. It is the Sin in which we were born.

Q. How came we to be born in Sin?

A. By Adam's Sin, when he eat the forbidden Fruit.

Q. What is Actual Sin?

A. All the Sin we commit ourselves.

Q. What is Mortal Sin?

A. That which kills the Soul, and deserves Hell.

Q. How does Mortal Sin kill the Soul?

A. By destroying the Life of the Soul, which is the Grace of God.

Q. What is Venial Sin?

A. That which does not kill the Soul, yet displeases God.

The ELEVENTH ARTICLE.

Q. Which is the Eleventh Article of the Creed?

A. The Resurrection of the Body.

Q. What means the Resurrection of the Body?

A. That we shall all rise again with the same Bodies at the Day of Judgement.

The TWELFTH ARTICLE.

Q. Which is the Twelfth Article of the Creed?

A. Life everlasting.

Q. What means Life everlasting?

A. That the good shall live for ever happy in Heaven.

Q. What is the Happiness of Heaven?

A. To see, love, and enjoy God for evermore.

Q. And shall not the Wicked also live for ever?

A. They shall be punished for ever in the flames of Hell.

C H A P. I I I.

The LORD'S PRAYER.

Q. **W**ILL Faith alone save us?

A. No; it will not without good Works.

Q. Can we do any Good towards our Salvation, of ourselves?

A. No; we cannot, without the Help of God's grace.

Q. How may we obtain God's grace?

A. By Prayer.

Q. What is Prayer?

A. It is the raising up our Minds to God.

Q. What think you of those who at their Prayers think not of God, nor of what they say?

A. If these Distractions are wilful, such Prayers, instead of pleasing God, offend him.

Q. Which is the best of all Prayers?

A. The Lord's Prayer.

Q. Who made the Lord's Prayer?

A. Christ our Lord.

Q. Say the Lord's Prayer?

A. Our Father who art in Heaven; hallowed be thy name; thy Kingdom come; thy Will be done on Earth, as it is in Heaven: Give us this Day our daily Bread; and forgive us our Trespases as we forgive them that trespass against us, and lead us not into Temptation, but deliver us from Evil. Amen.

Q. Who is it that is here called our Father?

A. God who made us all, and who, by his grace, is the Father of all good Christians.

Q. Why do you say, Our Father, and not My Father?

A. Because we are not to pray for ourselves alone, but for all others.

Q. What do we pray for, when we say, Hallowed be thy Name?

A. That God may be honoured and served by all his Creatures.

Q. What means, Thy Kingdom come?

A. We pray that God may come, and be King in all Hearts by his grace; and bring us all hereafter to his Heavenly Kingdom.

Q. What means, Thy Will be done on Earth, as it is in Heaven?

A. That God would enable us by his grace, to do his Will in all Things, as the Blessed do in Heaven.

Q. What means, Give us this Day our daily Bread?

A. We beg by these Words all Necessaries for Soul and Body.

Q. *What means*, Forgive us our Trespases, as we forgive them that Trespas against us?

A. We beg that God will forgive us our Sins, as we forgive others their Injuries.

Q. *What means*, Lead us not into Temptation?

A. That God would give us grace not to yield to Temptation.

Q. *What means*, Deliver us from Evil?

A. We beg that God will free us from all Evil of Soul and Body.

Q. May we desire the Saints and Angels to pray for us?

A. Yes, we may.

Q. How do you prove that the Saints and Angels can hear us?

A. There shall be Joy before the Angels of God over one Sinner that repents. St. Luke, chap. xv. ver. 10.

Q. What is the Prayer to our Blessed Lady which the Church teaches us?

A. The Hail Mary.

Q. Say the Hail Mary.

A. Hail Mary, full of grace, our Lord is with thee: Blessed art thou amongst Women; and Blessed is the Fruit of thy Womb, Jesus: Holy Mary, Mother of God, pray for us Sinners, now, and in the hour of our Death. Amen.

Q. How many Parts are there in the Hail Mary?

A. Three Parts.

Q. Who made the Two first Parts?

A. The Angel Gabriel, and St. Elizabeth, inspired by the Holy Ghost.

Q. Who made the Third Part?

A. The Church of God against those who denied the Virgin Mary to be the Mother of God.

Q. Why say you the Hail Mary so often?

A. To put us in Mind of the Son of God being made Man for us.

Q. *For what other reason?*

A. To honour the Blessed Virgin Mother of God, and to beg her Prayer for us.

C H A P. I V.

The TEN COMMANDMENTS.

Q. *How many Commandments are there?*

A. **T**en.

Q. *Who gave the Ten Commandments?*

A. God himself in the Old Law; and Christ confirmed them in the New.

Q. *Which is the Commandment?*

A. I am the Lord thy God, who brought thee out of the Land of *Ægypt*, and out of the House of Bondage. Thou shalt not have strange Gods before me. Thou shalt not make to thyself any graven Thing; nor the Likeness of any Thing that is in Heaven above, or in the Earth: Thou shalt not adore them, nor serve them.

Q. *What are we commanded by this?*

A. To believe, hope, love, and serve one true and living God, and no more.

Q. *What is forbidden by this Commandment?*

A. To worship false Gods, or Idols, or to give any Thing else what soever the Honour which belongs to God.

Q. *What else is forbidden by this Commandment?*

A. All false Religions, all dealing with the Devil; and enquiring after Things to come, or other secret Things, by Fortune Tellers, or superstitious practices.

Q. *What else?*

A. All Charms, Spells, and Heathenish Observations of Omens, Dreams, and such like Fooleries.

Q. *Does this Commandment forbid the making of Images?*

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A. It forbids the making them, so as to adore and serve them; that is, it forbids making them our Gods.

Q. Does this Commandment forbid all Honour and Veneration of the Saints and Angels?

A. No; we are to honour them as God's special Friends and Servants; but not with the Honour which belongs to God.

Q. And is it allowable to honour Relicks, Crucifixes, and holy Pictures?

A. Yes; with an inferior and relative Honour, as they relate to Christ and his Saints; and are Memorials of them.

Q. May we not pray to Relicks or Images?

A. No; by no Means, for they have no Life, or Sense, to hear, or help us.

Q. What is the second Commandment?

A. Thou shalt not take the Name of the Lord, thy God, in vain.

Q. What are we commanded by the second Commandment?

A. To speak with Reverence of God and all Holy Things, and to keep our lawful Oaths and Vows.

Q. What are we forbid by it?

A. All false, rash, unjust, and unnecessary Oaths: as also Cursing, Blaspheming, and profane Words.

Q. What is the third Commandment?

A. Remember that thou keep holy the Sabbath-day.

Q. What are we commanded by this?

A. To spend the Sunday in Prayer and other religious Duties.

Q. What do you mean by religious Duties?

A. Hearing Mass, going to the Sacraments, and reading good Books.

Q. What are we forbid by this Commandment?

A. All unnecessary Work, and sinful Profanation of the Lord's Day.

Q. What is the fourth Commandment?

A. Honour thy Father, and thy Mother.

Q. What are we commanded by the fourth Commandment?

A. To love, honour, and obey our Parents in all that is not Sin.

Q. Are we commanded to obey only our Father and Mother?

A. Not only them, but also our Bishops, Pastors, Magistrates and Masters.

Q. What is forbidden by this Commandment?

A. All Contempt, Stubborness, and Disobedience to our lawful Superiors.

Q. And what is the Duty of Parents and other Superiors?

A. To take proper care of all under their charge, and to bring their Children up in the Fear of God.

Q. What is the fifth Commandment?

A. Thou shalt not kill.

Q. What are we forbidden by the fifth Commandment?

A. All wilful Murder, Hatred, and Revenge.

Q. Does it forbid Striking?

A. Yes, as also Anger, Quarrelling, and injurious Words.

Q. What else?

A. Giving Scandal, and bad Example.

Q. What is the sixth Commandment?

A. Thou shalt not commit Adultery.

Q. What is forbidden by this?

A. All Kind of Sins of Uncleanness with another's Wife or Husband.

Q. What else?

A. All other Kinds of Immodesties by Kisses, Touches, Looks, Words or Actions.

Q. And what do you think of immodest Plays and Comedies?

A. They are also forbidden by this Commandment; and it is sinful to be present at them.

Q. What is the seventh Commandment?

A. Thou shalt not steal.

Q. What is forbidden by this Commandment?

A. All unjust taking away, or keeping what belongs to others.

Q. What else?

A. All manner of cheating in buying or selling; or any other Way wronging our Neighbour.

Q. Must we restore ill-gotten Goods?

A. Yes, if we are able, or else the Sin will not be forgiven; we must also pay our Debts.

Q. What is the eighth Commandment?

A. Thou shalt not bear false Witness against thy Neighbour.

Q. What is forbidden by this Commandment?

A. All false Testimonies, rash Judgments and Lies.

Q. What else?

A. All Backbiting, and Detraction, or any Words and Speeches, by which our Neighbour's Honour or Reputation is any ways hurt.

Q. What is he bound to do, who has injured his Neighbour by speaking ill of him?

A. He must make him Satisfaction, and restore his good Name as far as he is able.

Q. What is the ninth Commandment?

A. Thou shalt not covet thy Neighbour's Wife.

Q. What is forbidden by this?

A. All lustful Thoughts and Desires, and all wilful Pleasure in the irregular Motions of the Flesh.

Q. What is the tenth Commandment?

A. Thou shalt not covet thy Neighbour's Goods.

Q. What is forbidden by this?

A. All covetous Thoughts, and unjust Desires of our Neighbours Goods, and Profits.

C H A P. I I I.

The COMMANDMENTS of the CHURCH.

Q. **A**RE we bound to obey the Commandments of the Church?

A. Yes ; because Christ has said to the Pastors of his Church ; *He that heareth you , heareth me : And he that despiseth you , despiseth me.* St. Luke , chap. x. ver. 16.

Q. How many are the Commandments of the Church?

A. Chiefly Six.

Q. Which are they ?

A. I. To keep certain appointed Days Holy ; with obligation of hearing Mass, and resting from servile Works.

II. To fast *Lent*, the four *Ember-Weeks*, the *Vigils*, and the *Fridays*, according to the Custom of *England* ; and to abstain from flesh on *Saturdays*, and other Days of Abstinence.

III. To pay Tithes to our Pastor.

IV. To confess our Sins to our Pastor, at least once a Year.

V. To receive the blessed Sacrament once a Year, and that at *Easter*, or thereabouts.

VI. Not to solemnize Marriage at certain Times ; nor within certain Degrees of Kindred, nor privately without Witnesses.

Q. Why does the Church command us to fast?

A. That by Fasting we may satisfy God for our Sins.

Q. At what Age do Persons begin to be obliged to Confession?

A. When they come to the Use of Reason ; so as to be capable of mortal Sin : which generally is supposed to be about the Age of seven Years.

Q. And at what Time do they begin to be obliged to Communion?

A. When they are insufficiently capable of being instructed in these sacred Mysteries, and of discerning the Body of our Lord.

C H A P. V I.

The SACRAMENTS.

Q. WHAT is a Sacrament ?

A. An outward Sign of inward Grace ; or a sacred and mysterious Sign and Ceremony ordained by Christ, by which Grace is conveyed to our Souls.

Q. Do all Sacraments give Grace ?

A. Yes ; if we are duly prepared.

Q. Whence have the Sacraments the Power of giving Grace ?

A. From Christ's precious Blood.

Q. Is it a great Happiness to receive the Sacrament worthily ?

A. Yes ; it is the greatest Happiness in the World.

Q. How many Sacraments are there ?

A. These seven : Baptism, Confirmation, Holy Eucharist, Penance, Extreme Unction, Order, and Matrimony.

Q. What is Baptism ?

A. It is a Sacrament by which we are made Christians, Children of God, and Heirs of Heaven ; and are cleansed from original Sin, and actual, if we are guilty of any.

Q. How is Baptism given ?

A. By pouring Water on the Child, with the Words ordained by Christ.

Q. What are those Words ?

A. I baptize thee in the Name of the Father, and of the Son, and of the Holy Ghost. Which Words ought to be said at the same Time the Water is poured,

Q. What do we promise in Baptism?

A. To renounce the Devil, with all his Works and Poms.

Q. What is Confirmation?

A. It is a Sacrament, in which, by the Imposition of Hands of the Bishop, we receive the Holy Ghost, in order to make us strong and perfect Christians, and Soldiers of Jesus-Christ.

Q. How does the Bishop administer this Sacrament?

A. He prays that the Holy Ghost may come down upon us; and makes the Sign of the Cross with Chrism on our Foreheads.

Q. What is the Holy Eucharist?

A. It is the true Body and Blood of Christ, under the Appearances of Bread and Wine.

Q. Why has Christ given himself to us in this Sacrament?

A. To feed and nourish our Souls, and to enable us to perform all Christian Duties.

Q. How is the Bread and Wine changed into the Body and Blood of Christ?

By the Power of God, to whom nothing is hard or impossible, and by the Words of Jesus Christ spoken by the Priest in the Mass.

Q. How must we prepare ourselves to receive the blessed Sacrament?

A. We must be in the State of Grace; and be fasting from Midnight.

Q. Is it a great Sin to receive unworthily?

A. Yes it is; for he that eats and drinks unworthily, eats and drinks Judgment to himself, 1 Cor. Chap. vi. ver. 19.

Q. What is it to receive unworthily?

A. To receive in mortal Sin.

Q. What is the Mass?

A. It is the unbloody Sacrifice of the Body and Blood of Christ.

Q. What are the Ends for which we are to offer up this Sacrifice?

A. First, For God's Honour and Glory. Secondly, In Thanksgiving for all his Benefits; and as a perpetual Memorial of the Passion and Death of his Son. Thirdly, For obtaining Pardon for our Sins. And Fourthly, For obtaining of all Graces and Blessings, through Jesus Christ.

Q. How must we hear Mass?

A. With very great Devotion and Attention.

Q. What is the Sacrament of Penance?

A. It is a Sacrament, in which, by the Priest's Absolution, joined with Contrition, Confession, and Satisfaction, the Sins are forgiven which we have committed after Baptism.

Q. How do you prove that the Priest hath Power to absolve Sinners, if they be truly Penitent?

A. From the Words of Christ, whose Sins you shall forgive, they are forgiven. St. John, Chap. xx. ver. 23.

Q. What are the Parts of Penance?

A. Contrition, Confession, and Satisfaction.

Q. What is Contrition?

A. A hearty Sorrow for our Sins by which we have offended so good a God, with a firm Purpose of Amendment.

Q. What is a firm Purpose of Amendment?

A. It is a resolution, by the grace of God, not only to avoid Sin, but also the occasions of it.

Q. Why are we to be sorry for our Sins?

A. The chiefest and best Motive to be sorry for our Sins, is for the Love of God, who is infinitely good in himself, and infinitely good to us; and therefore we ought to be exceedingly grieved for having offended him.

Q. What other Motives have we to be sorry for our Sins?

A. Because by them we Lose Heaven and deserve Hell.

Q. How may we obtain this hearty Contrition and Sorrow for our Sins ?

A. We must earnestly beg it of God ; and make use of such Considerations and Meditations as may move us to it.

Q. What is Confession ?

A. It is to accuse ourselves of our Sins to a Priest.

Q. What if one wilfully conceals a mortal Sin in Confession ?

A. He commits a great Sin , by telling a Lie to the Holy Ghost , and makes his Confession nothing worth.

Q. What must we do , that we may leave out no Sin in Confession ?

A. We must carefully examine our Conscience upon the Ten Commandments , and the seven deadly Sins.

Q. How many Things , then have we to do , by Way of Preparation for Confession ?

A. Four Things. *First*, We must heartly pray to God for his grace to help us. *Secondly*, We must carefully examine our Consciences. *Thirdly*, We must beg Pardon of God , and be uery sorry from our Hearts for offending him. And *Fourthly*, We must resolve to renounce our Sins , and begin a new Life for the future.

Q. What is Satisfaction ?

A. It is doing the Penance given by the Priest.

Q. What is an Indulgence ?

A. It is a releasing of Temporal Punishment which often remains due to Sin , after the Guilt has been remitted by the Sacrament of Penance.

Q. What is Extreme Unction ?

A. It is the anointing of the Sick , with Prayer , for the Forgiveness of their Sins.

Q. When is this Sacrament given ?

A. When we are in Danger of Death by Sickneſs.

Q. What Scripture have you for this Sacrament?

A. Is any one ſick among you? Let him bring in the Priests of the Church; and let them pray over him, anointing him with Oil in the Name of the Lord. And the Prayer of Faith ſhall ſave the ſick Man: and the Lord ſhall raiſe him up; and if he be in Sins, they ſhall be forgiven him. St. James, v. 14. 15.

Q. What is Order?

A. It is a Sacrament by which Bishops, Priests, &c. are ordained, and receive Grace and Power to perform the Duties belonging to their Charge.

Q. What is Matrimony?

A. It is a Sacrament which gives Grace to the married Couple to love one another, and breed up their Children in the Fear of God.

CHAP. VII.

Of the VIRTUES and VICES, &c.

Q. **H**ow many are the Theological Virtues?

A. Three; Faith, Hope and Charity.

Q. What does Faith help us to do?

A. It helps us to believe, without doubting, all that God has taught, and the Church propoſes.

Q. What does Hope help us to do?

A. To put our Trust in God, that he will give us all Things neceſſary for our Salvation, if we do what he requires of us.

Q. What does Charity help us to do?

A. It helps us to love God above all Things; and our Neighbours as ourſelves.

Q. How many are the Cardinal Virtues?

A. Four; Prudence, Juſtice, Fortitude, and Temperance.

Q. How many are the Gifts of the Holy Ghoſt?

A. Seven; Wiſdom, Underſtanding, Counſel,

Fortitude, Knowledge, Godliness, and the Fear of our Lord.

Q. How many are the Fruits of the Holy Ghost?

A. Twelve:

- | | | |
|--------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| 1. Charity. | 5. Benignity. | 9. Faith. |
| 2. Joy. | 6. Goodness. | 10. Modesty. |
| 3. Peace. | 7. Longanimity. | 11. Continency. |
| 4. Patience. | 8. Mildness. | 12. Chastity. |

Q. Which are the two Precepts of Charity?

A. 1. Thou shalt love the Lord thy God, with thy whole Heart, with thy whole Soul, with all thy Strength, and with all thy Mind.

2. And thy Neighbour as thyself.

Q. Say the seven Corporal works of Mercy?

A. 1. To feed the Hungry.

2. To give Drink to the Thirsty.

3. To cloath the Naked.

4. To visit and ransom Captives.

5. To harbour the Harbourless.

6. To visit the Sick.

7. To bury the Dead.

Q. Say the seven Works of Mercy Spiritual?

A. 1. To convert the Sinner.

2. To instruct the Ignorant.

3. To counsel the Doubtful.

4. To comfort the Sorrowful.

5. To bear Wrongs patiently.

6. To forgive Injuries.

7. To pray for the Living and the Dead.

Q. Say the Eight Beatitudes?

A. 1. Blessed are the Poor in Spirit, for theirs is the Kingdom of Heaven.

2. Blessed are the Meek, for they shall possess the Land.

3. Blessed are they that mourn, for they shall be comforted.

4. Blessed are they that hunger and thirst after Justice, for they shall be filled.

5. Blessed are the Merciful, for they shall find Mercy.

6. Blessed are the Clean of Heart, for they shall see God.

7. Blessed are the Peace-makers, for they shall be called the Children of God.

8. Blessed are they that suffer Persecution for Justice sake, for theirs is the Kingdom of Heaven.

Q. Say the seven deadly Sins?

A. Pride.

Covetousness.

Lust.

Anger.

Gluttony.

Envy.

Sloth.

Contrary Virtues.

Humility.

Liberality.

Chastity.

Meekness.

Temperance.

Brotherly Love.

Diligence.

Q. Say the Six Sins against the Holy Ghost?

A. 1. Presumption of God's Mercy.

2. Despair.

3. Impugning the known Truth.

4. Envy at another's spiritual Good.

5. Obstinacy in Sin.

6. Final Impenitence.

Q. Say the Four Sins crying to Heaven for Vengeance?

A. 1. Wilful Murder.

2. Sodomy.

3. Oppression of the Poor.

4. Defrauding Labourers of their Wages.

Q. Say the Nine Ways of being accessory to another Person's Sin?

A. 1. By Counsell.

2. By Command.

3. By Consent.

4. By Provocation.

5. By Praise or Flattery.

6. By Concealment.

7. By Partaking.

8. By

8. By Silence.

9. By Defence of the Ill done.

Q. Say the three eminent Good Works?

A. 1. Almsdeeds. 2. Prayer. 3. Fasting.

Q. Say the Evangelical Counsels?

A. 1. Voluntary Poverty. 2. Perpetual Chastity.
3. Entire Obedience.

Q. Say the four last Things to be remembered?

A. 1. Death. 2. Judgment. 3. Hell. 4. Heaven.

CHAP. VIII.

The CHRISTIAN'S RULE of Life.

Q. *W*Ho was the Founder of the Christian Religion?

A. Jesus Christ the Son of God, who came down from Heaven, to teach us the Way to Heaven.

Q. *What Rule of Life then must the Christian follow, if he hopes to be saved?*

A. He must follow the Rule of Life taught by Jesus Christ.

Q. *What is the Christian to do by this Rule?*

A. He must always hate Sin, and love God.

Q. *How is he to hate Sin?*

A. Above all Evils; so as to be resolved never to commit a wilful Sin, for the Love or Fear of any Thing whatsoever.

Q. *How is he to love God?*

A. Above all Things, and with his whole Heart.

Q. *How is he to learn to love God?*

A. He must beg of God to teach him. *O my God, teach me to love thee?*

Q. *What else must he do?*

A. He must often think how good God is; often speak to him in his Heart; and always seek to please him.

Q. And does not Jesus Christ also teach us to love one another?

A. Yes; he commands us to love all Persons without Exception, for his sake.

Q. In what Manner are we to love one another?

A. In God, and for God; so as to wish well to all; and to pray for all: and never to allow ourselves any Thought, Word, or Deed, to the Prejudice of any one.

Q. And are we also to love our Enemies?

A. Yes; we are, not only by forgiving them from our Hearts, but also by wishing them well, and praying for them.

Q. What other Rules does Jesus Christ give, to all that desire to be his Disciples?

A. To deny ourselves, to take up our Cross, and to follow him. St. Matthew, xvi 24.

Q. What is meant by denying ourselves?

A. The renouncing our own Will; and going against our own Humours, Inclinations and Passions.

Q. Why are we bound to deny ourselves in this Manner?

A. Because our natural Inclinations are prone to Evil from our Childhood, and if not curbed and corrected by Self-denial, will infallibly carry us to Hell.

Q. What is meant by taking up our Cross?

A. Patiently submitting to, and willingly embracing the Labours and Sufferings of this short Life.

Q. And what is meant by following Christ?

A. To follow Christ is to walk in his Footsteps, by an Imitation of his Virtues.

Q. What are the Virtues we are to learn of him?

A. To be meek and humble of Heart: to be obedient unto Death; and to seek to do in all Things the Will of his Father.

Q. Which are the Enemies the Christian must fight against all the Days of his Life?

A. The Devil, the World, and the Flesh.

Q. Whom do you mean by the Devil?

A. Satan and all his wicked Angels, who are ever seeking to draw us into Sin, that we may be damned with them.

Q. Whom do you mean by the World?

A. All wicked Company; and all such as love the Vanity, Riches and Pleasures of this World better than God?

Q. Why do you number these amongst the Enemies of the Soul?

A. Because they are always seeking, by Word, or Example, to carry us along with them in the broad Road that leads to Damnation.

Q. And what do you mean by the Flesh?

A. Our own corrupt Inclinations and Passions; which are the most dangerous of all our Enemies.

Q. What must we do to hinder these Enemies from dragging us along with them to Hell?

A. We must always warch, pray, and fight, against all their Suggestions and Temptations.

Q. Whom must we depend upon in this Warfare?

A. Not upon ourselves. but upon God alone.

C H A P. I X.

The CHRISTIAN'S daily EXERCISE.

Q. WHAT is the first Thing you should do in the Morning?

A. Make the Sign of the Cross, and offer my Heart and Soul to God.

Q. What must you do next?

A. Rise diligently, dress myself modestly, and encertain myself with good Thoughts; particulary by considering the Goodness of God, who gives

me this Day, to labour in it for the Salvation of my Soul; and that perhaps this may be my last.

Q. And what do you do after you have put on your Cloths?

A. I kneel down to my Prayers, and perform my morning Exercise.

Q. What is your morning Exercise?

A. First, I bow down my whole Soul and Body to adore my God; and I offer myself to his divine Service.

Secondly, I give him thanks for his infinite Goodness to me, and to all his Creatures; and desire to join with all the Angels and Saints, in blessing and praising him.

Thirdly, I crave Pardon from my Heart, for all my Sins; and beg that I may rather die than offend my God any more.

Fourthly, I offer up to God all my Thoughts, Words, and Actions of the Day, and beg his Blessing on them.

Q. And what Prayers do you say after this?

A. I say the *Our Father*, the *Hail Mary*, and the *Apostles Creed*: and I make Acts of Faith, Hope, and Love of God.

Q. Do you do any Thing else?

A. I pray for my Friends, and for my Enemies: for the Living and for the Dead; and I beg Mercy, Grace, and Salvation for all. Then I conclude by desiring our blessed Lady to be a Mother to me; and by recommending myself to my good Angel, and to all the Court of Heaven.

Q. Is this all that a good Christian should do, by Way of morning Exercise?

A. No; for he ought also, if he has Time and Opportunity, to meditate in the Morning on his last End: or some other devout Subject, and to hear Mass with Attention and Devotion.

Q. What ought you to do at the Beginning of every Work or Employment?

A. I ought to offer it up to God's Service; and to think that I will do it because it is his Will, and in order to please him.

Q. And what are you to do as to your Eating, Drinking, Sleeping, and Diversion?

A. All these Things I must use with Moderation; and do them, because such is the Will of God; and with a good Intention to please him.

Q. By what other Means must you sanctify your ordinary Actions, and Employments of the Day?

A. By often raising up my Heart to God whilst I am about them, and saying some short Prayer to him.

Q. What do you do as often as you hear the Clock strike?

A. I turn myself to God; and I say to him: O my God, teach me to love thee, in Time and Eternity.

Q. And what do you do as often as you receive any Blessing from God?

A. I endeavour immediately to make him a Return of Thanksgiving and Love.

Q. And what do you do when you find yourself tempted to Sin?

A. I make the Sign of the Cross upon my Heart; and I call upon God, as earnestly as I can; Lord save me, or I perish.

Q. And what if you have fallen into any Sin?

A. I cast myself in Spirit at the Feet of Christ, and humbly beg his Pardon, saying: Lord, be merciful to me a Sinner.

Q. And what do you say when God sends you any Cross or Suffering, or Sicknefs, or Pain?

A. I say, Lord, thy Will be done; I take this for my Sins.

Q. And what other little Prayers do you say to yourself from Time to Time in the Day?

A. Lord, what wilt thou have me to do? O teach me to do thy holy Will in all Things. Lord, keep me from Sin. May the Name of our Lord be for ever blessed. Come, my dear Jesus, and take full Possession of my Soul: Glory be to the Father, &c.

Q. What is your evening Exercise?

A. I say the Our Father, Hail Mary, and Belief, together with the Acts of Faith, Hope, and Love of God, &c. as I did in the Morning.

Q. And don't you also join with the Family in saying the Litanies and other Evening Prayers which are usually said in the Catholic Families?

A. Yes; as also in the daily Examination of Conscience.

Q. How do you make this daily Examination of Conscience?

A. First, I place myself in the Presence of God, (as I usually do at the Beginning of all my Prayers) and I beg his Light and Help, to know my Sins and to be sorry for them.

Secondly, I consider how I have spent the Day from Morning till Night; in what Manner I have performed my Prayers, and all other Duties; what Blessings I have received from God; and what Offences I have been guilty of against him, by Commission or Omission.

Thirdly, I give Thanks to God for all his Blessings; and beg Pardon for all my Sins, endeavouring to make a hearty Act of Contrition for them.

Fourthly, I commend my Soul into the Hands of God, with the best dispositions I can, of Love, and Conformity to his blessed Will; as if I were to die that night.

Q. How do you finish the Day?

A. I observe due Modesty in going to Bed; entertaining myself with the Thoughts of Death: and I endeavour to compose myself to Rest at the Foot of the Cross; and to give my last Thought to my crucified Saviour.

Q. How do you make an Act of Faith?

A. O Eternal Truth, who hast revealed thyself to Men, one God in thee Persons, Father, Son, and Holy Ghost, I believe in thee. O Jesus Christ, the Son of God, my Saviour and Redeemer, who hast died for us all, I believe in thee. I believe all the divine Truths which thou my God has taught us by thy Word, and by thy Church, because thou hast taught them, who art the sovereign Truth: and I had rather die, than call in Question any of these Truths.

Q. How do you make an Act of Hope?

A. O my God, who art infinitely powerful; and infinitely good and merciful; who hast made me for thyself, and redeemed me by the Blood of thy Son, and promised us all Good through him; I firmly hope for Mercy, Grace and Salvation from thee, through the same Jesus Christ my Saviour: resolving on my Part, to do all that thou requirest of me.

Q. And how do you make an Act of the Love of God?

A. O my God and my All, infinitely good in thy self, and infinitely good to me, I desire to praise thee, bless thee, glorify thee, and love thee for ever. O take Possession of my whole Soul, and make me for ever a Servant of thy Love.

Q. And how do you make an Act of the Love of your Neighbours?

A. O my God thou hast commanded me to love every Neighbour as myself, for thy sake, O give me Grace to fulfil this Commandment. I desire to love every Neighbour, whether Friend or Enemy, in thee and for thee. I renounce every Thought, Word, or Deed that is contrary to this Love. I forgive all that have any Way offended me, and I beg thy Mercy, Grace and Salvation for all the World,

Q. How do you make an Act of Contrition for your Sins?

A. O my God, who art infinitely good, and always hatest Sin, I beg Pardon from the Bottom of my Heart. for all my Offences against thee; I detest them all, and am heartily sorry for them, because they offend thy infinite Goodness, and I beg I may rather die than be guilty of Sin any more.



FINIS.